

New Media

(civic activism and emerging threats)

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Washington DC, June 12, 2008

Overview

- Key Ideas
- Definition
- Characteristics
- Benefits
- Examples
- Challenges

Key Ideas

- The uses of new media for civil organization;
- Challenges / Emerging threats to the use of new media as a tool for freedom of expression and democracy promotion.

Definition

- New Media
 - Convergence
 - The evolution of a universal interconnected network of audio, video, and electronic text communications

Characteristics

■ New Media

- Alter the meaning of geographic distance
- Increases the volume of communication
- Increases the speed of communication
- Lower cost to engage and participate
- Allows for interactive communication
- Permits forms of communication that were previously separate to overlap and interconnect

Benefits

- Allows people to organize
 - Lowers Transaction costs (free organization tools)
 - Virtual engagement :
 - Limitations to freedom of association are bypassed
- Decrease Risks
 - Does not involve direct confrontation
 - Low risk and non-threatening

Examples

- Global Voices
- Facebook
- Mobile Phones – SMS & mblogging
- Ushahidi - Kenyan Election Monitoring
- Sokwanele - Zimbabwe Election Watch (ZEW)
- Tunisian Prison Map
- Korea – Cabinet resignation over beef..



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featured stories

Colombia: The struggles of Barrancabermeja documentary

Juliana Rincón Parra · 07:04, June 11th, 2008 · Americas

This nine part documentary created by Taline Haytayan of her experience as part of the Peace Brigades International organization in the strife ridden Barrancabermeja region of Colombia captured my attention throughout. It follows the Feminine Popular Organization (OFP) group which works together to prevent violence against women and violent conflict ... [0 comments](#) · [»»](#)



Iran: Judicial Investigator Publically Accuses Ayatollahs of Corruption

Hamid Tehrani · 10:58, June 9th, 2008 · Middle East & North Africa

A member of Iran's Judicial Inquiry and Review Commission, Abbas Palizdar, created a scandal this month by accusing several top clerics and influential members of the Islamic Republic of corruption in a speech at a Booali University in Hamadan. He offered details of many illegal business deals and criminal offences, and accused ...

[4 comments](#) · [»»](#)



Tajikistan

A thread on popular bbs site Tianya.cn is providing photos and live updates of today's Olympic torch relay, as it passes through the part of Yunnan province often referred to as Shangri-La, along with photos of local scenic and cultural sights.

[East Asia](#)

Vadim thinks that Tajikistan is currently facing food crisis because of corruption.

[Central Asia & Caucasus](#)

Ciudad Satélite was "the first American-style planned suburb in Mexico" during the 1940s and 50s. Mario of *Candyland* posts a video of one of the first commercials promoting this new way of living.

[Americas](#)



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Zimbabwe

feed

Recent posts



Add live "Zimbabwe" headlines to your site

Sub-Saharan Africa

Zimbabwe

Topics

May 10th, 2008

Zambia: Parastatal madness and constitutional debate

Brenda Zulu · 15:32

lingua → de

This roundup covers Zambian bloggers who are discussing "the parastatal madness," the debate over the constitution of Zambia, the election crisis in Zimbabwe and the African Forum on ICT Best Practices 2008. [0 comments](#) · [»](#)

May 6th, 2008

Zimbabwe: Using New Technologies to Fight for Democracy

Ndesanjo Macha · 18:02

lingua → pt · es

In countries such as Zimbabwe where media freedom is extremely restricted, new technologies have become powerful tools for political campaigning, communication, advocacy and mobilisation. Since Robert Mugabe turned the country into a dictatorship, bloggers and civic organisations have resorted to using new tools and applications such as blogs, Flickr, Facebook, SMS, YouTube and mashups to fight for democracy, media freedom and good governance. [7 comments](#) · [»](#)



Zimbabwe

Links about Zimbabwe

June 10th, 2008

Election violence continues in Zimbabwe: "Whilst Mugabe fiddles about food in Rome, Zimbabwe is burning. With three weeks till the run off, the election violence continues. The images from a petrol bomb attack in Zaka support with the reports we received below, from an MDC supporter in Masvingo Province."

Zimbabwe Business Watch: "The economy is in real free fall right now as inflation accelerates rapidly making life almost unbearable. It is predicted that by the end of the month, prices could be doubling everyday. As an indication to this, the USD traded at 1, 4 billion to 1 on Thursday and went over 3 billion the following day."

facebook

Email:

Password:

☐ Remember me





Login

[Forgot Password?](#)



Facebook is a **social utility** that connects you with the people around you.

Use Facebook to...

-  Keep up with friends and family
-  Share photos and videos
-  Control privacy online
-  Reconnect with old classmates

Find your Friends on Facebook

Search by Name



or [Use the Friend Finder](#) ▶

Sign up for Facebook

It's free and anyone can join.

Full Name:

Your Email:

New Password:

Birthday:

Month: ▼

Day: ▼

Year: ▼

Why do I need to provide this?

Sign Up

By clicking Sign Up, you are indicating that you have read and agree to the [Terms of Use](#) and [Privacy Policy](#).

اضراب عام لشعب مصر - 6 April

Global

Information

Group Info

Type: Common Interest - Beliefs & Causes

Description: الإحتجاج السلمي مستمر

كانت خطوتنا الأولى يوم 6 أبريل
كل مصر عرفت باليوم ده .. و اللى ماعرفش .. وزارة الداخلية مشكورهم
عرفته
اليوم ده نجح جدا و فاق كل التوقعات .. ناس كثير استجابت و كل المصريين
تعاطفوا جدا معنا ... و كل المصريين كان نفسهم يشاركوا لولا الخوف و
القهر و الارهاب الحكومى

كان معادنا الثانى يوم 4 مايو .. و ده كان المقصود منه ايصال رساله لبارك
فى عيد ميلاده انه يراعى الناس و إن الناس غاضبه جدا من سياسته و
طريقة ادارته لمصر
هدفنا هو ايقاظ الشعب من الغيبوبه و كيفية المطالبه بحقوقه البسيطة ..
هدفنا نشر الإيجابيه بعد سنوات طويله من الخوف و الرعب ..
بعد 6 أبريل ناس كثير بدأت تتكلم .. و بعد 4 مايو ناس أكثر هاتتكلم
خلاص العجله دارت و محدش هياقدر يوقفها و المارد بدأ يصصى

احنا تحولنا لأكبر جماعة ضغط فى مصر
احنا مش حزب سياسى
ولا نسعى للسلطه

لكن احنا عايزين حقنا
حقنا اللى بيتسرق كل يوم و احنا ساكتين

مطالبنا لم يتم اجابتها
مطالبنا لسه موجوده و زدنا عليها كمان
1- حد ادنى للأجور مع ربطها بالاسعار
2- اجراءات وقف الزيادة الغير مبرره للاسعار مع وقف احتكار السلع
الرئيسيه من رجال اعمال الحزب الوطنى
3- تحقيق الإكتفاء الذاتى من الغذاء

طب احنا هانعمل ايه دلوقتى؟؟
احنا هانقدم لحكومة الحزب الوطنى كل الطرق الممكنه اللى تحقق بيها المطالب
دى
رغم إنهم بيتجاهلوا حل تلك المشكلات من 27 سنه ... و رغم إنهم هم سبب
زيادة المشاكل
لكن احنا هاتجبرهم انهم يتجاهلوا مصالحهم شويه .. إحنا هاتجبرهم على

اهلا بك فى
العمل الوطنى
المشروع



View Discussion Board

Invite People to Join

Leave Group

Share +

Related Groups

facebook admin, why did u delete
Mohamed Abutrika fan's page?we
r all Trika

Common Interest - Politics

اضراب 6 أبريل نجح..و هتكمل المشوار يا رجالة
مصر اول اسبوع من شهر مايو

Common Interest - Politics

Photos

Displaying 4 of 642 photos

[Add Photos](#) | [See All](#)



Discussion Board

Displaying 3 of 4974 discussion topics

[Start New Topic](#)

افكار للمرحله القادمه .. ارجوا الرد ... احمد ماهر
138 posts by 78 people. Updated 55 seconds ago.

ساعتين سفر يوم الاثنين صباحا تثبت اننا اولاد مصر الاحرار
53 posts by 21 people. Updated 14 minutes ago.

رقصه البجع الاخيره
40 posts by 10 people. Updated 37 minutes ago.

Members

This group has 72,737 members.

[See All](#)



Seif El Din
Mohsen



Abo Aesraa



Sherif
Ahmed



Bassel
Khaled
Sabry
Abuelnass



Mohamed
Moneer



Rana Sliem

The Wall

Displaying 10 of 90886 wall posts

[Write Something](#) | [See All](#)



Yasser Elmasry wrote
at 11:33am

لا ولكن زوجتي لها علاقة بالامر واعذرنى لن اذكر اشياء اكثر من هذا
ولكن جاد حشود الامر مع مشقة

Egyptians Use Facebook to Mobilize, Government Not Happy

✓ Tue, 06/03/2008 - 10:00am by LibertySugar

124 Views - 7 comments

Social networking site Facebook is getting in the way of Egypt's emergency law governance, which has not allowed more than five people to congregate unless registered for the last 25 years.

In April, young citizens used Facebook to get 80,000 supporters to protest rising food prices. Also that month, on April 6, the site spread support and increased turnout for a textile workers' strike and protest. Just yesterday, an imprisoned [blogger was released](#), after being allegedly tortured for his alleged role in the April 6 deadly protests.

Now, the [LA Times reports](#) that Egyptian president Hosni Mubarak may shut off Facebook access in Egypt. Already, the government is warning media not to mention Facebook, while leading a defamation campaign against those who use it.

مصريون الإمارات يساندون معتقلي 6 إبريل

Global

Information

Group Info

Type:

Description:

Common Interest - Beliefs & Causes

FREE EGYPTIAN APRIL 6 STRIKE PRISONERS

لأننا كنا نكفينا لها عهداً لينا، ولنا و شجيتا الجيب انس في يوم 6 إبريل، أنشأنا هذه المجموعة لمساندة ومناصرة معتقلي 6 إبريل، وإسراء عبد الفتاح مؤسسه هروب إضراب عام للشعب مصر - 6 إبريل

الهدف من التبريد: جمع التبرعات لمساندة المعتقلين لمعتقلي 6 إبريل و جمع التبرعات لإسراء عبد الفتاح المعتقلين من أجل الإفراج عن المعتقلين ، يا جماعة نرجو منكم المساعدة و يا ريد نقسوا لنا إقتراحات لمساندة المعتقلين و الزملاء المعتقلين في القيس بكون نرجو منكم مساعدتنا بخشاش لمساند أبناء وطننا و تتكلم معهم رغم إلتنا بعيد في الخارج

Because April 6 Strike repercussions pained us...Because we were hurt for the imprisonment of Esraa Abdel Fattah, creator of April 6 Strike Group, and her colleagues, we , the Egyptians in the UAE, created this group to support the prisoners.

Goal:

-Collect donations for lawyers defending the prisoners
-Sign the attached petition that will be forwarded to the Egyptian Embassy in the UAE

Have a say.. support your brothers & sisters... show Egypt you still care


Contact Info

City/Town:

Dubai, United Arab Emirates



WHAT IS IT? WHO USES IT? REQUEST DOWNLOAD. JOIN THE COMMUNITY.

FRONTLINE SMS 



FRONTLINE SMS

OVERVIEW



A lack of communication can be a major barrier for grassroots non-governmental organisations (NGOs) working in developing countries. FrontlineSMS is the first text messaging system created exclusively with this problem in mind.

By leveraging basic tools already available to most NGOs – computers and mobile phones – FrontlineSMS enables instantaneous two-way communication on a large scale. It's easy to implement, simple to

FRONTLINE SMS ALLOWS YOU TO TEXT MESSAGE WITH LARGE GROUPS OF PEOPLE ANYWHERE THERE IS A MOBILE SIGNAL.

TAKE THE TOUR.

REQUEST DOWNLOAD.

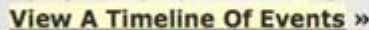
SUCCESS STORIES

"We want people to know that if they are trying to rig the election, there could be someone behind them and that person may send a text message saying what happened."

— Emauwa Nelson, Human Emancipation Lead Project, Nigeria

Camera Phones Prevail: Citizen Shutterbugs and the London Bombings





Hybrid

⑨

Q

Q

Q

Q

①

Q

0

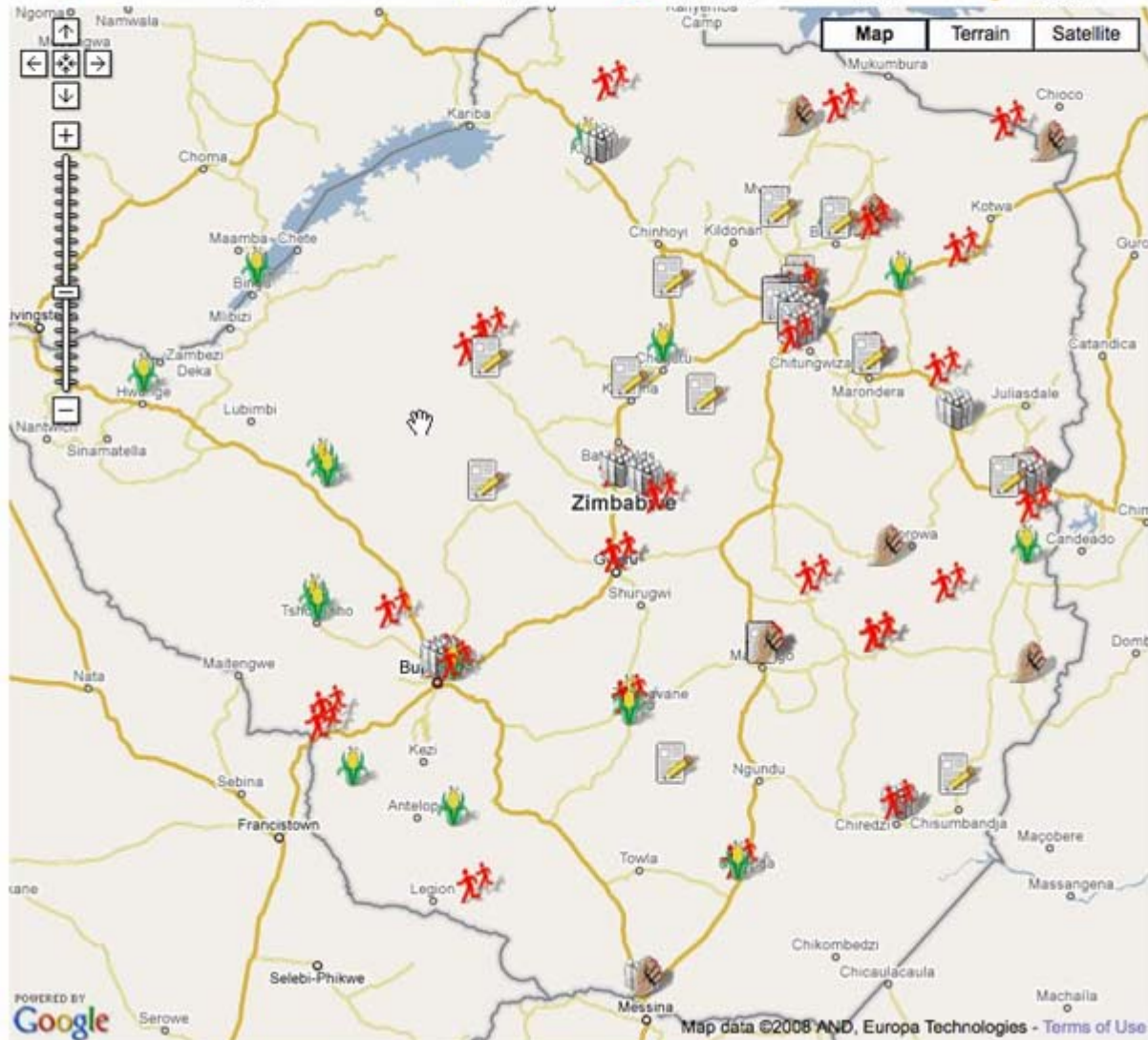
9

GO

Submit Via SMS

Send your SMS to **6007** on
your phone
(Safaricom/Celtel)

- | | | | | | |
|--|---|--------------------------------------|--|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Voter Registration | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Food Supply | <input type="checkbox"/> Abduction | <input type="checkbox"/> Murder | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political Cleansing | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political Violence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Press Freedom | <input type="checkbox"/> Unlawful Detention | <input type="checkbox"/> Looting | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Freedom of Association | <input type="checkbox"/> Freedom of Information | <input type="checkbox"/> State Propaganda |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vote Buying | <input type="checkbox"/> Gerrymandering | <input type="checkbox"/> Voters Roll | <input type="checkbox"/> Observer Restrictions | <input type="checkbox"/> Polling Issues | <input type="checkbox"/> Judicial Issues |





Voter registration: Events related voter registration; for example, ineffectual efforts to register voters, refusing to allow people to register, fraudulently registering voters, and a lack of information in relation to the voter registration.



Food supply: Using food as a political weapon. This section logs incidents of deliberately withholding food, stockpiling food to use it to 'buy votes', threatening to withhold or dispense food along party lines, attempts to limit the activities of relief organisations.



Abduction: Forcing people, often violently, to go somewhere against their will.



Murder



Political Cleansing: This term and icon covers attempts to clear or 'cleanse' an area of political opposition. It covers a wide range of atrocities. In some instances people are literally driven from their homes: in others intimidation and threats are used to achieve the same 'cleansing' objective. The ruling party has used the words 'reorientation' and 're-education' as part of its political strategy before.



Political Violence: Incidents where violence is used towards a political objective: to coerce someone to do something against their will, to punish them, or to intimidate and threaten them.



Press freedom: Incidents which impact on the press's ability to report freely and fairly and impartially on candidates, campaigning and elections in Zimbabwe.



Unlawful detention: Activists and political and civic leaders are regularly arrested for no reason at all in Zimbabwe.



Looting & Destruction of Property: Incidents where personal belongings are stolen or 'confiscated', or where property is destroyed.



Freedom of Association: Where people are denied their right to freely associate, either in the form of political meetings or meeting as members of civic organisations, or in the form of campaigning locally to meet constituents.



Freedom of Information: Logging incidents that impact on the ability to either share information freely, or receive information freely.



False Statements: This includes state propaganda, deliberately circulating lies, or dispensing information and instructions in what would amount to an abuse of power.



Buying votes: Using bribery in the form of threats or promises of material gifts - including food, money, housing stands, cars, tractors, farms - for votes.



Gerrymandering: Issues pertaining to the manipulation of constituency boundaries to secure political advantage for one party.



Voter's Roll: Events recorded here relate specifically to the voters roll; for example, whether or not the opposition have access to it, and whether or not the roll has errors on it.



Observer restrictions: Any efforts to curtail the activities of election observers will be logged using this icon.



Polling issues: This section records polling related issues; at the polling station and in relation to the polling box itself.



Judicial Issues: Legislative and legal issues.



Tunisian Prison Map

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Reviews



Markers indicate the location of prisons



Info windows containing flash animation



Info windows containing video



Info windows containing video & flash

- Click the markers on the map to get the information windows;
 - The markers can also be opened from outside the map, by clicking on the prisons list on the right of the map;
 - Click the tabs at the top of the information windows in order to watch the video;
 - Click and drag anywhere on the map to move the information windows and read the text;
 - Use the tools on the left to zoom in and out;
 - Click "Satellite" or "Hybrid" for a view from above;
- Note:** The map may take several minutes to load.

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Info windows containing flash animation



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Map

Satellite

Hybrid

Prisons

Avril
Bizerte city
Borj Erroumi
Nadhör
El Haouareb
Beja
Borj El Amri
Gabes
Gafsa
Gromballa
Harboub
Jandouba
Kef
Mahdia
Manouba
Messadine
Monastir
Mornague
Mornagula
Sfax
Sillana
Sidi Bouzid
Detention Centers
Bouchoucha
Gorjani
Régim Maatoug
Zembra
Restriction
S. Alaoul
M. Ben Salem
A. Zouari
Big Brothers
The President
Dakhiliyya
ATI



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80,000 Protest Beef Imports in South Korea, Government Hears

✓ Wed, 06/11/2008 - 8:00am by CitizenSugar [ONLINE](#)

93 Views - 15 comments



The right to assemble is alive and well in South Korea — and what's more, the government is paying attention. Between 80,000 and 100,000 people [demonstrated last night](#) in Seoul, the largest demonstration yet against a deal to resume imports of US beef into South Korea.

The South Korean President Lee Myung-bak said today his government intends to make a fresh start following the protests, and that his entire Cabinet has offered to resign in response to weeks of rallies against the incoming beef. Lee said, "I thought about a lot of things while watching protests last night. The government intends to make a start with a new determination."

Though he's concerned the Cabinet resignations might cause "a vacuum in state affairs," he has not yet said whether he will accept the resignations, but will probably reassign some ministers.

Comments

- Easier to organize
 - New tool for activism
- Repressive Regimes
 - Promote dialogue
 - Share information
 - Promote discussion
 - Non-violent confrontation
 - Visualize Data

Comments (2)

- Democratizing connective tool
 - Traditional Media -> Democracy 1.0
 - New Media -> Democracy 2.0

Challenges

- “Enabling environment” is required
 - Critical mass
 - ICTs
 - Access - ICTs (pc's, mobile, etc)
 - Knowledge - ICT Training/ Education

Challenges (2)

- Governments are reacting
 - Repression 1.0
 - In the last several years governments have increasingly places limits on freedom of association
 - Repression 2.0
 - Governments will increasingly place limits on freedom of expression
 - Censorship

Recommendations

- New Media
 - Key aspect of civil society programs
 - News to be more integrated into programs
- Global Internet Freedom
 - Monitoring Censorship
 - Censorship as an impediment to :
 - Democracy
 - Trade

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